



COVID-19 Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Kerala

Advisory for Pooled Testing for COVID - RTPCR/Xpert/ TrueNAT tests

No 31/ F2/2020/ Health- 22nd June 2020

ICMR has recommended pooling of samples when the test positive ratio is less than 2%. Department of Health & Family Welfare, Kerala has studied the test positivity rates of various categories of samples. Based on the findings, following advisory is issued regarding pooling of samples for COVID testing.

1. Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala has issued revised guideline on testing and quarantine on 3rd June 2020 [<https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Revised-Guideline-COVID-19-Testing-Quarantine-Isolation.pdf>].
2. Except for (1) Symptomatic patients who have undertaken international/interstate travel in last 14 days (Category 1) and (2) Symptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases (Category 2), all other samples (category 3-15) could be pooled for testing either using RTPCR/ TrueNAT/ Xpert. Districts are instructed to send samples of individuals belonging to category (Category 3-15) in mVTM 0.5 ml, labelling 'Pooled Test' in Sample Request Form and VTM.
3. Pooling of the samples (for category 3-15) shall be done as per the advisory on RTPCR pooled testing 12th May 2020 [<https://dhs.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Advisory-on-RT-PCR-Pooled-testing.pdf>] and advisory on pooled testing for TrueNAT and Xpert on 22nd June 2020.


Principal Secretary